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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Fifth Session
Sessional Committee
Agenda item 8

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING

Discussion of Shipping by the Second Conference
(Item V of the draft provisional agenda of the Conference)

Note by the UNCTAD Secretariat

1. This note takes into account the discussions on shipping matters by the Committee on Shipping of UNCTAD at its first, second and special sessions. The purpose of the note is to indicate the shipping issues that have so far been discussed by the Committee on Shipping or included in its programme of work for future discussion.

2. The programme of work of the Committee on Shipping was adopted at the first session of the Committee in November 1965 (see document TD/B/36, Report of the Committee on Shipping on its first session) and at its special session in July 1966 (see document TD/B/83, Report of the Committee on Shipping on its special session). The programme of work was modified at the Committee's second session in February/March 1967 (see document TD/B/116, Report of the Committee on Shipping on its second session, Annex II). The programme of work includes the following major areas of activity:

(i) Establishment of national and regional consultation machinery;

(ii) Level and structure of freight rates, conference practices and adequacy of shipping services;

(iii) Improvement of port operations and connected facilities;

(iv) Establishment or expansion of merchant marines in developing countries;

(v) Reviews of current and long-term aspects of maritime transport;

(vi) Other questions.

3. The programme of work of the Committee on Shipping as a whole was unanimously adopted at the first and special sessions of the Committee, while the modifications were unanimously adopted at its second session. The programme of work as a whole has been approved by the Trade and Development Board.

4. Only item I of the programme of work, establishment of national and regional consultation machinery, has been the object of substantive discussion by the Committee on Shipping. The substance of this discussion is contained in paragraphs 1 to 18 of document TD/B/116. In respect of this item the Committee also unanimously adopted a resolution taking note of the report on this item submitted by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and recommending certain measures for the implementation of the guiding lines set forth in that report. This item, therefore, is ready for consideration, endorsement, and final action at the Second Conference with a view to implementation.

5. Apart from Consultation Machinery, on which there is a wide measure of agreement, of the items on shipping on the draft provisional agenda for the Second Conference, no substantive agreement or disagreement exist in the Committee on Shipping, since no substantive discussion has yet taken place. On the subjects of Shipping Industry in Developing Countries, including Expansion of Merchant Marines of Developing Countries and Consultation Machinery in Shipping, the work of the UNCTAD secretariat is sufficiently advanced to enable reports to be placed before the Second Conference that will facilitate meaningful action.

6. On the other items of the programme of work, no substantive discussion has taken place, but the Committee has considered progress reports submitted by the secretariat and given guidance for the continuing work of the secretariat.

7. The second session of the Committee on Shipping discussed the draft provisional agenda for the Second Conference adopted by the fourth session of the Trade and Development Board. The substance of the discussion on this point is contained in paragraphs 73 to 90 of document TD/B/116. It appears from this account that the Committee on Shipping considers that the items on shipping on the draft provisional agenda should be included in the provisional agenda for the Second Conference. With regard to the item between square brackets - International Legislation on Shipping - the representatives of the developing and socialist countries were in favour of deleting the square brackets and of retaining this item, while the representatives of the developed countries with market economies were opposed to the inclusion of this item in the agenda for the Second Conference. The discussion of this question is contained in paragraphs 81 to 89 of the Report of the Committee on its second session. The Committee decided that the views

expressed in its discussion should be brought to the attention of the Board. Since no agreement was reached by the Committee on Shipping at its second session on this item, this question has now been referred to the Trade and Development Board for solution.

8. With regard to the items on shipping matters to be included in the provisional agenda of the second session of the Conference, the Committee decided (TD/B/116, para.90) to suggest to the Board that in making proposals on the organization of the Second Conference, it may wish to take into account the view of the Committee on Shipping that shipping matters be considered by a separate committee of the Conference; that committee would meet for a continuous period in the course of the second session of the Conference.

9. At its second session, the Committee on Shipping adopted two resolutions in addition to the one already mentioned (see annex I of document TD/B/116). In these resolutions the Committee, inter alia, unanimously invites governments, shippers and shipowners, shipping and commercial interests and conferences to co-operate with the secretariat by providing the information required for the implementation of the Committee's programme of work, reaffirms that the secretariat of UNCTAD is competent to provide substantive support to technical assistance activities in maritime transport, and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to consider ways of avoiding duplication of activities among the United Nations units dealing with shipping and ports.